

# Air Standardization Coordinating Committee

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ASCC /5/2/(1)

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All ASCC CMs

Copy to:

All ASCC National Directors (through A/Stands)

All ASCC A/Stands

## ASCC NEWSLETTER

1. Hopefully, most of you will now be aware that, at the last National Directors' (ND) meeting, the Management Committee (MC) was tasked with a fairly radical re-focusing of the organization. The NDs felt that the organization lacked focus, there was not a clear linkage between the activities at the WP level and the fundamental goals of the ASCC, and they wished to have more influence on the work being undertaken by the Working Parties (WPs).

2. Following some MC proposals, the NDs approved a two-part plan to carry out this re-focusing exercise. The first part of the plan involves the MC looking very closely at all the projects presently being carried out by the WPs. We are to ensure the projects are relevant to the ASCC goals, are contributing to operational effectiveness, are cost-effective, and are not being duplicated elsewhere. Any projects that do not meet this criteria should be canceled. The second part of the plan concerns a major revision to the ASCC management framework. A key element in achieving this involves asking all the relevant experts within each nation to tell us where there are interoperability problems. The final result of this refocusing effort is to have an agreed "Working Party Task Order", on which the ASCC should be concentrating its effort.

3. The purpose of this newsletter is to give you an update on the progress of this plan, and an indication of where the organisation is going over the next 12 months.

4. Originally, the MC envisaged part one of the re-focusing plan, the Project Review, to be a three-stage process. The first stage was for the MC to do an 'unbiased' look at all of the Projects, and make appropriate recommendations. The second stage was for the WP, preferably at a meeting, but failing that by correspondence, to have their input to the process. This input might just consist of answering any questions the MC might have raised, or it might include providing counter-arguments to the MC position. The third and final stage was for the MC to take the WP inputs and make a final recommendation of which work currently undertaken was worthy of continuing. This recommendation was then to be passed to the NDs.

5. The status of this first part of the plan is that we are on schedule. We have completed the first MC-led phase on 10 of the 13 WPs, with just WPs 20, 25 & 61 left to complete. Those of you who have seen the reports will know that we have been fairly ruthless, and some WPs have emerged a shadow of their former selves. However, the MC felt that if we were to do this process properly, then we must ensure that the analysis was conducted thoroughly. The second, WP-led, stage has been completed for WPs 30, 50, 84, & 90 at their recent meetings. We intend to have WPs 15, 44, 45, 61, 80 complete this stage at their meetings to be held later this year. WPs 20, 25, 65 & 70 will therefore have to be done either by correspondence or early in 1997. So far, the only WP that has completed the final phase is WP30.

6. The status of the second part of the plan, that of revising the management framework, is that we are also well on track. We have consulted the national experts and now have comprehensive inputs from all ASCC members. The analysis of this data is just beginning, but there are already some common areas beginning to emerge. Not surprisingly, Command & Control, and the interoperability of the associated secure communications and data links, is given high priority by most nations. Fratricide prevention is another area of common concern. Also, Air Transport and Air Drop have been highlighted as most important areas.

7. Once all this data has been analysed, the MC will present an initial report on 1 Aug 96 to the NDs. This will recommend areas where the ASCC should concentrate its efforts, based on the combined inputs from the nations. Once this list is approved/amended by the National Directors, hopefully during September the MC will then use this list to produce detailed tasking instructions for both the existing WPs, and any new WPs, or special Working Groups that may be needed.

8. These task lists will then be combined with the approved projects from the first part of the re-focusing plan to provide a consolidated list of areas for future work. Our aim is that each Working Party should have an acceptable workload of projects, each leading to achievable and relevant results in an agreed timeframe. Any WP that does not have sufficient work to justify its continued existence will either be absorbed into another WP or recommended for disbandment. On present timings, this final recommended package will be available for presentation to the National Directors by the end of the year, for subsequent discussion and amendment/approval at the next National Directors meeting, scheduled for May '97.

9. In parallel with this activity, we also have a separate process running on validation of the ASCC and its associated products. Discussions have been carried out between the MC and the A/Stands, and liaison visits carried out with the standardisation cell at SHAPE, exercise planners, and the ABCA Armies representatives planning their validation exercise. Again, we are well on schedule to have a final report on the recommended way ahead, for issue to the National Directors at the end of the year.

10. We at the MC believe that this refocusing effort will ensure that the ASCC remains relevant and worthwhile in these changing times. We hope you have found this update useful. Obviously if you have any further suggestions for improvement we will be more than happy to take them.

From the MC